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editorial

On responsibility

by Will Nicholls

As June 28, the national day of protest for aboriginal people, approaches, some in the non-Native community are starting to lose their cool. Take, for example, the statement by Ontario Provincial Police Association President Karl Walsh. Mr. Walsh, very authoritatively, recently warned all Native leaders and National Grand Chief Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of First Nations that they should take responsibility for the actions of Aboriginal people at protest sites and instruct them on what constitutes a peaceful protest.

Furthermore, Mr. Walsh said that the National Grand Chief should publicly denounce any future activities by protestors who threaten to breach the peace, are counter-productive to a peaceful protest, intimidate private citizens, cause destruction of private or public property or attacks on members of the public or police officers.

I find this statement very surprising. I have to wonder what Walsh said when members of the Montreal police service wore guns while the police were protesting a few years back? I'm sure a few citizens found armed protesters to be a bit intimidating.

What about when fire fighters defaced fire trucks and equipment with stickers and paint? Ambulance drivers have done the same thing when they protested wage freezes. Was this not destruction of public property? Should not the mayors and premiers be out there giving these organizations lessons on what constitutes a peaceful protest and taking responsibility for their actions?

Should we not have Prime Minister Harper get out there and do some denouncing himself? There are protestors at abortion clinics who intimidate the hell out of women, doctors and staff. Shouldn't Harper take responsibility for these people? These protesters are his political supporters, after all.

To get really specific, let's look at February 2000, when SQ officers deliberately slowed morning rush hour traffic by parking at busy traffic points and stopping cars, checking to see if drivers were wearing their seat belts.

Even more recently, in 2005, police officers in Toronto disobeyed a direct order not to wear their uniforms and firearms during a union rally. Did Mr. Walsh, who is, remember, president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association, feel some responsibility for these out-of-control protesters?

Indeed, where were the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister of Canada at that time? Did they take full responsibility for the actions of the police officers who disobeyed an order from the top ranking officials of the police?

Don't get me wrong here, I fully believe in non-violence as an effective means of protest. I believe violence is the last resort of fools as someone once said.

However, when I read or hear such ill-conceived words then I must step up and put forth a viewpoint that may seem strange to non-Aboriginal peoples: We do not all think alike. Aboriginals are not sheep blindly following leaders like puppets. We bear differing opinions that are just as varied as in any non-Aboriginal society.

In the end, First Nations hear the editorials and comments of one law for all. Add to this the words of Karl Walsh. If the two statements are true then should not Prime Minister Harper take responsibility for the actions of First Nations peoples as they are all Canadians under one law? Should he not explain what constitutes a peaceful protest and how to effectively utilize one to redress the issues Aboriginal people in Canada are fighting to see resolved? Should he not stand up and deal with them in a fair manner?

One should wonder why he has not and then decide who is ultimately to blame for the protests.

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Design: Little Rick

The evolution of revolution

I recently returned from a business trip to the heart of francophone Quebec, a place where the French language is all too resoundingly in favour of putting the 'oise at the ending of every other word.

I, unfortunately, have limited communication skills with la belle langue but I was nevertheless still determined to get my point across: Quebec is a big place and there's plenty of room for everyone.

Since the theme of the business trip was business (naturally), I had to effectively learn about our neighbours to the south in a quick and necessary assimilation process that covered nearly every technical jargon known to the entrepreneur and statesman alike.

What bothered me was my ability to somehow be understood, whether or not my long, drawn-out sentences with deliberation on whether or not it was passé or composé limiting my timeline to be forever in the past while still trying to express syntax in the future further complexed my bilingual deficiencies. So I determined that the best tactic was the watch, listen and learn approach.

During breaks, which were the length of a cigarette for many of the participants, I quickly established that due to the fact that the area we come from is equal to the size of the rest of Quebec but representative of one per cent of the population, made for some unequal arguments in favor of the southerners.

While bringing up the encroaching immigration of others from non-European countries, as either being an unstoppable economic force or liability, depending on who was speaking, I felt that they (southern Quebecers) felt the same way we did about 400 years ago. Since I could sympathetically understand their dilemma, I realized that the second coming of immigration would wash up on the shores of the language and culture issues. The evolution of who is Canadian or Québécoise or immigrant or tourist is about to rush the province into a new revolution of sorts.

The revolution is to quietly accept that the residents of other countries like our country because of all those laws that protect our own identities and cultures. In a way, they help create a country home away from your home country.

This is true whether your new home is conveniently nestled in the Laurentians or other small townships of Quebec, complete with mandatory language laws ensuring that you must speak as the others do. For I, it was a matter of when in Rome....

Amazingly, many hardened people with a single language were taken aback that the average Cree youth can parlay three languages with ease. So what's with the inability of the old world people to keep with the Joneses to the north in terms of "spiken the tongues"? I say, keep up with the times, go global, stay simple and get along with your neighbours.

Respect the culture of adaptation. Acceptance is the key to harmony and getting along. Maybe, one century, our descendents will look back at us and wonder why we couldn't get along in paradise, and deliberate on whether we fought all the time over silly things like language and cultural differences and not fight for the planet and all living things on it before the great deluge of the 21st century.

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Canada

Cree kin get together

by Will Nicholls

On June 5, The Grand Council of the Crees and the Tataskweyak Cree Nation of Manitoba signed a declaration to affirm ties of kinship and cooperation between the two Nations. But this was more than a simple expression of friendship.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash noted the declaration could be interpreted as a form of protest. Mukash and the Manitoba Chief recognized each other as Nations. "This is a first where we agreed to recognize each other and our inherent right to self-government. It is going to be an effective tool," said Mukash.

"WE ARE NOT JUST LOOKING AT MAKING MONEY HERE AND THIS IS A GOOD THING,"

TATASKWEYAK ELDER

The text itself reads, "In shaping our own destinies, we will remain faithful to the time honoured traditions of our ancestors and we will work to secure the greatest possible freedom, dignity and prosperity for our people."

"The Tataskweyak want to learn from us and how we handled certain issues that affect all First Nations, especially in regards to development," said Mukash.

Indeed it was development that brought the new relationship between the two Cree Nations together as Jack Blacksmith, Chairperson of Creeco, can attest. "We started talking to the Tataskweyak Cree a few years back, and about a year ago things started to happen. In the third week of March last year, an agreement outlining a joint venture between Cree Construction and Tataskweyak Cree Nation was signed creating a United Cree Construction Company based in Manitoba.

"We hoped we would start working together and we did. We got contracts from Manitoba Hydro," said Blacksmith. The first contract was a $2.5 million deal to restore a cemetery endangered by fluctuating water levels. The next contract will be community roads and infrastructure, according to Blacksmith, with the possibility of other co-ventures on Manitoba Hydro contracts.

Blacksmith said the relationship is a good one. "Cree expertise is being shared. We're not there to take over but to share our knowledge."

Cree Construction president William MacLeod said they saw this as an opportunity to assist the Tataskweyak Band to build capacity so the Tataskweyak Cree would be able to take advantage of opportunities in their territories and beyond.

"It's more than just business," said MacLeod. He said there would be cultural and people exchanges. For example the Tataskweyak youth might be interning at the Cree Regional Radio for a few weeks to get some training. "Culturally, some of their Elders remembered some of the traditional cooking methods and styles we were using. Some of the Youth had never even seen the bonask or smoked or spinning goose," said MacLeod. Many of the Elders enjoyed beaver tail, saying they had not had it in decades.

One Tataskweyak Elder said he thought everyone was going on the right path. "We are not just looking at making money here and this is a good thing," he said.

It was this attitude that saw the Tataskweyak Band Council asking for more and led to the declaration in the first place. "The Council wanted to look at the whole Eeyou/Ennou experiences and scenario that we went through. As a result we helped to facilitate meetings between the Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the Tataskweyak Cree," said Blacksmith.

While the Agreement recognizes "our own distinct identities, culture, language and traditions," in the same sentence it says they have been guided by common purposes and beliefs, "which have been shaped by many common experiences."

Mukash fully agrees with that sentiment. "We knew we were alike in certain ways and we agreed to work together," said Mukash. He said both Nations want to protect their way of life while looking at development. "It's about our way of life and treaty rights. There are principles that will guide us. It's an important step for both our Nations," said Mukash.

Mukash said they are looking at visiting the Tataskweyak traditional lands later in the fall.

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declaration **page 21**

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Sacred Addictions

by Will Nicholls

It's a problem for many but a ray of light may help stop many from lighting that next cigarette. The Tobacco Healing Centre, the first of its kind, opened its doors June 11 in the town of Arnprior, near Ottawa.

The centre already claims an 80 per cent success rate and says it will handle 1,500 to 2,000 smokers a year. Half of the spaces are reserved for First Nations people. The 80 per cent claimed success rate is based on a Health Canada-funded five-day program involving 23 Aboriginals from Edmonton last year. The pilot study has an 83 per cent rate one year later with no one going back to the addictive weed.

As a further experiment they went to New York and met with health workers there. They have an astounding 80 per cent non-smoking rate with more picking new stop-smoking dates again. These are two of the six studies done on the Centre's methods.

Among the Tobacco Healing Centre's first customers will be 20 First Nations people. It will cost $1,500 per participant.

That cost is low when you consider the cost of cigarettes is $9 per pack (which will cost you $3,285 per year if you smoke a pack a day). This doesn't even take into account the health costs associated with smoking. Murray Kelly, the centre's founder, said he saw a recent Health Canada report that shows smokers cost an organization or business on the average $3,000 a year more than a non-smoker. This is due to a loss of productivity, more sick days and drawing on health benefits more than non-smokers.

The first clients of the centre are likely due to smoking statistics. While 30 per cent of the Canadian adult population smokes, for Aboriginal people it's a high 64 per cent rate (2002 study). To break that down Health Canada says, 60 percent of on-reserve First Nations people between the ages of 18 and 34 currently smoke; 70 percent of Inuit in the north between the ages of 18 and 45 currently smoke; almost half of Inuit (46%) who smoke started smoking at age 14 or younger; and the majority of on-reserve First Nations people who smoke (52%) started smoking between the ages of 13 and 16.

This gives you an idea of the problem Health Canada and First Nations are looking at in terms of tobacco addiction.

The centre admits Aboriginal people have a special relationship with tobacco. The centre has First Nations healer, Philip Campiou, a Woodland Cree on staff. He recognizes most First Nations regard tobacco as sacred. The centre deals with this saying you have to acknowledge tobacco as your friend and instead of consuming it, to give it back to the Creator as an offering. A sweat lodge is available on-site at the centre. Teepees have been set up for ceremonies and meditation.

First Nations healers and traditional people have always said tobacco wasn't meant as a daily thing but something that was used on special occasions and ceremonies.

The centre is looking for sponsors for people who cannot afford the cost of getting treated.

The five-day program includes 100 days of telephone follow-up.

To contact the Tobacco Healing Centre call: 613-623-4242 ext 29 and talk to Ms. Kender Smith.

For those of you wishing to quit now you can phone: in Quebec 1 866 j'arrête [527-7383] (English and French only) and in Ontario 1-877-513-5333 (also in English and French).

Members of the Native group working on the Peribonka-Simard project

A first for the CREES of Wemindji

Following their training they obtained an employment contract outside of their community

In order to fill a specific need, the Enterprise Service of the Pays des Bleuets School Board, developed a training adapted to the particular needs of a Native group from Wemindji.

The training

The Natives selected for this project received training on manual and secure felling techniques as well as the use, maintenance, and sharpening of chainsaws and portable hand-held brush-cutters. Mr. Jacquelin Lalancette, accredited trainer, trained the group and provided follow-up on the workers' licensing.

Mr. Arsenault, work supervisor (called Odjimâ in Cree), spoke about his team with pride: "They are people adapted to the forest life. It is very easy for them to work in this environment. They like work well done and can benefit from each moment spent in nature. They take time to do their work and take advantage of life. It is a great pleasure to work with them!"

In short, this adventure is much more than a training; it is a challenge taken up successfully. There are also new opportunities for these Natives, proud of what they have achieved.

A first contract for the group

Thanks to this training, recognized by the Parity Committee on the Preservation of the Forest and the CSST, the group was able to obtain a contract for land clearing on the TransEnergie line, Hydro-Québec's new line project. This site will connect Peribonka's future power house to St-Honore's Simard sectioning station, covering a length of over 128 km.

A visit on site

In order to meet the group, we went to the Hydro-Québec site and obtained several testimonies allowing us to realize that this project is a complete success. Among other things, we spoke with a person in charge from Hydro-Québec who told us he was very satisfied with the work carried out by the group.

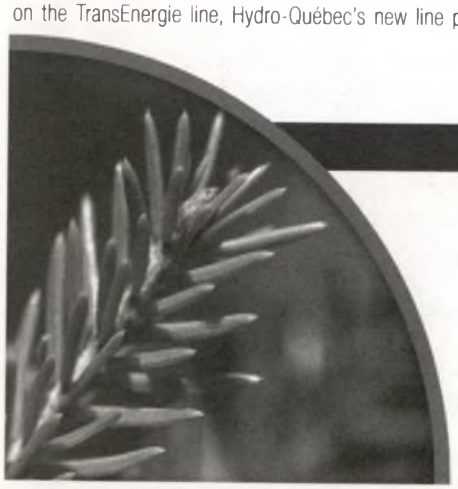
Photograph

Members of the Native group working on the Peribonka-Simard project appearing in the photograph above: Mr. Barry Miniquaken, Mr. Angus Shashawsskun, Mr. Joseph Visitor, Mr. Waylon Georgekish, Mr. George Natawapineskum; accompanied by their work supervisor, Mr. Damas Arseneault; the sub-contractor, Mr. Benoit Filion and the accredited trainer, Mr. Jacquelin Lalancette.

Thanks from the group

The members of the group mentioned: "It is thanks to Mr. Earl Danyluck, initiator of this adventure, that we have succeeded in this project. We have always lived in the forest and practiced hunting and trapping but have never worked in the forest. If other projects develop in this direction, it will be Mr. Danyluck who will be our reference."

Congratulations to all the team and to all those who took part in the success of this project.



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Wemindji wins eco-award

The community of Wemindji has been honoured with the Quebec government's 10th annual Prix Phoénix de l'Environnement for their recycling program in the municipality category.

Wemindji's environmental administrator, Johnny Mark, accepted the award on behalf of the community from Environment Minister Line Beauchamp May 31 in Quebec City. "We were not expecting such an award, it was a long shot but we were pretty excited" said Mark.

The community of Wemindji started up their recycling program in November 2006. "There is a lot of response and enthusiasm by the community members," for the program, Mark enthused. The program complements the municipality's incineration program and for the time being the sorting for the recycling program is being done in the same facility until a new building designed specifically for it is completed sometime next month. The recyclables are collected in Wemindji, and once they are sorted and compacted by the town's vertical bailer, make a voyage to Chibougamau, where larger recycling facilities are available.

For the time being the community is paying for its own recycling program. "I don't think that this one community can profit off of the recycling," Mark explained. "But if all of the communities chipped in we might be able to officially meet our costs and break even. If we could achieve that we would be accomplishing a lot."

According to Mark, the community of Mistissini is also considering a similar incineration/recycling program and he believes that it would be a promising project as Mistissini is even closer to Chibougamau.

Mark believes that Wemindji's program is successful because it is "complementary to our traditional practices over here. There are not too many places in the North where you will find a landfill or a disposal site."

CSB/CU launch Cree/French lexicon

Parlez-vous Eeyou? Nimah? Maybe now you can. The Cree School Board, working alongside Ottawa's Carleton University, has completed a long overdue addition to their online Cree/English lexicon and the printed Cree/English edition. They celebrated with an official launch at the posh Hotel Forestel in Val d'Or June 5.

The website dictionary contains more than 32,000 entries in Cree, in the Northern and Southern dialects, English and French. The number of entries in Cree for the Northern dictionary is 15,173 and for the Southern dictionary it's 17,965.

A unique feature of the site is that you can access pages that are entirely in Cree syllabics. Another interesting addition to the lexicon is the relaxed search function to correct for a non-standard language. Also available is a verb dictionary, which allows speople to enter inflected forms, like chiwaapamin instead of just waapameu. You can also refine searches using classifiers such as "Kan." As in the words, Niskikan (Goose decoy and Ojimahkan, Chief but more accurately, Fake Boss.)

The computer savvy can also download pages to be read at leisure. An encyclopedic dictionary is in the works with photographs and sound. You can also help out by submitting words you can't find on the site. Look for Jeeoogagoomeshtegootguaganoowaboogoonenjeet (One contender for the longest word in Cree which means, "It appears that someone has prepared some smoked porcupine for them.")

The Cree/French lexicon was three years in the making and assembled a huge force of fluent Cree Elders from all over Eeyou Astchee. A CD version is also planned.

Interested readers can go to the board's online dictionary at www.eastcree.org.

Headaches averted or not in Great Whale

In a bizarre paradox, major headaches were both prevented and not in the community of Great Whale this past week when brave fire fighters snuffed out a raging inferno at the town's raucous Social Club. The blaze began before both bars began business just before breakfast. The fire interrupted a Whapmagoostui band general assembly that was in progress early on June 9.

The Great Whale Social Club fire caused little in monetary damage. The popular hangout has not been closed. Firefighters had to tear out part of the bar's outside walls to get to the cause of the blaze, which was faulty wiring. "There's no problem," said club chair Andre Morin. "It's still open."

But the Social Club's competitor just down the road, Restopub, was filled with regulars fearing the Club would be shut down when the Restopub closed at nine.

A person wishing to stay anonymous, (Neil Diamond), said, "It was scary. We came pretty close to disaster. Do you realize how close we came? Waitress. Get me another two here."

Kree karate kids kan kick in Kanada's kapital

Cree karate students will go into battle in Montreal June 19, when the hopefully victorious Cree warriors will head to Ottawa to take on all comers. Then it's on to a summer camp where another competition awaits. In September, the Japan Karate Association will host Koyo camp, in which a Japanese master will teach.

Sensei Etienne Herady says that instead of giving the student fishes, he prefers teaching them how to fish! "Our goal is to create champions in life, to whom people will look at as an example."

Herady has trained with masters in France, Japan, United States, Belgium and South Africa and dreams of training Cree students to be Canadian champions.

Sensei Herady holds a black belt, 3rd Dan in Shotokan karate, and was Canadian champion in 2002 until 2006. He was also champion of the 2006 master camp in

Continued on Page 27...

Emma Mianscuum, Louise Etapp Neeposh, Juliette Iserhoff and friends

A 60 KILOMETRE WALK TO OTTAWA!

by Juliette Iserhoff photos courtesy of Bella N. Mianscuum

Louise Etapp Neeposh and I participated in a very special event June 1-3 called "The Weekend to End Breast Cancer." It involved a walk of 60 kilometres, and it took place over the course of one weekend with thousands of other women and men.

I was very motivated and determined to follow through with this important event. All the net proceeds will support the Breast Cancer Research and the Services in the Ottawa/Gatineau area. My goal was to raise $2,000 due to the short time frame and I succeeded in raising $2,571 in 10 days.

This journey was personally in memory of all women who have lost their lives because of breast cancer and to the children and families who have lost their loved ones. Another goal was to give support to women who have survived breast cancer.

A colleague from the Cree School Board survived breast cancer and it was a joy to see Emma Mianscum and her family at the ceremonies of this event. As a nation if we all come together we can make extraordinary things happen. Giving from the heart and putting a smile on someone's face is a great joy in life.

A million thanks to all of my supporters. You made this walk a success with your generous donation. You were always in my heart during the walk as well as in my mind.

Thanks to my family for their love and support and to Reggie Neeposh for driving us back and forth to the site.

Walkers and supporters of the Weekend to End Breast Cancer

Congratulations!!!

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Lettrage Waldi – Chibougamau
Jo-Ann Toulouse – Chibougamau
Helene Robitaille - Chibougamau
Albert Renaud- Black Creek, Quebec
Sandra Oliver – Wendover, Ontario
Marc Oliver – Montreal , Quebec
Anyone else I may have forgotten

CELEBRATING THE FIRST PEOPLE'S FEST

"NOW WE DO IT AND WE LIKE IT!"

By Amy German

Since its inception 17 years ago, the Montreal First People's Festival has gone from being the new kid on the block to being an experienced and savvy festival operator that competes with the best of big boys in the crowded Montreal festival circuit while uniquely celebrating Indigenous artists.

Festival creator and organiser André Du Domaine says the festival originated in a desire to build awareness of Aboriginal realities in the era of the Oka crisis. With the "incomprehension and misunderstandings" that surrounded the 1990 confrontation, there was never a better time to start a festival of this nature, even though they had little funding.

Florent Vollant was there as was celebrated Rouyn-Noranda country-folk artist Richard Desjardins, before he made it big. Though various authors and local Aboriginal painters showed up for the fest's inaugural weekend, giving it a very multidisciplinary approach, it was many years before the festival grew legs, began to focus on film and included a jury, becoming what it is today.

"The filmmakers themselves said that they needed the recognition," said Du Domaine. "If we want to see progress we will need real recognition with a jury, they told me. At first we were not really happy with that as it was not how we saw things but in the end we decided, 'Okay, lets do it!' Now we do it and we like it!"

The festival has grown exponentially since then and is now a sprawling, two-week affair that features Indigenous filmmakers from all around the globe and a meeting of the minds with international media.

Du Domaine also spoke enthusiastically about how the themes in Aboriginal filmmaking have changed dramatically over the years and how it pertained to this year's festival. "I think that the general theme of it is that the speech of the artists, their pitch, is no longer about being victims. This is now! We are looking towards the future," he said.

As a younger generation of Indigenous filmmakers moves into the spotlight, absent is the focus on the separation from traditional life and the brutality that their parent's generation experienced at the hands of colonisation. "They so easily look at the present that is sometimes very dark but looking at the present they show how much they want the future to be brighter," Du Domaine explained.

The opening night's feature film personified this whimsical, lighter approach to Aboriginal cinema in New Zealand Native Taika Cohen's romantic comedy, *Eagle Vs Shark*.

Cohen, who is of Te-Whanau-a-Apanui descent, has crafted a laugh-out-loud feature film about two socially awkward misfits and the strange ways they try to find love; through revenge on high-school bullies, burgers, and video games. Though at times it becomes easy to draw comparisons between *Eagle vs Shark* and 2004's cult indie classic *Napoleon Dynamite* due to some of the similarities between both of the male leads, Cohen's soon to-be-a-hit-film (mark my words!) is still refreshingly humorous and has a wonderful message about self acceptance: it's okay to be you. Even if you are a loser you can still find love!

The Montreal First People's Film Festival runs June 10-21 at various venues throughout the Montreal area. To find out more go to: www.nativelynx.qc.ca

Stills from *Eagle vs Shark*

13th annual

The Mondial de la bière

by Amy German photos by Will Nicholls

It's become a real, authentic Montreal institution as thousands once again descended upon Windsor Station and its courtyard for the 13th annual Mondial de la bière, Montreal's international beer festival.

From foreign suds to local flavours and honey meads to iced ciders, this year's festival was a smorgasbord of luxurious liquids, appealing aromas and delightfully paired, bite-size morsels. With over 300 different products to sample, various presentations and festivities, it would have been nearly impossible to take in the whole festival and what it had to offer but two brave journalists from the Nation did their best at the fest on your behalf.

In that each tasting consisted of only a few ounces of beer or one ounce of apéritif, we were able to sample a wide variety of beverages but by no means did we even attempt to hit the 300 mark. We instead picked a variety at random and simply went with that.

U&I new product

Our results are as follows:

Our first tasting was an amber beer called L'Abbaye de Saint Bon-Chien of Switzerland that was offered to us by the brewer of this fine product, Jérôme Rebetez. Originally a wine maker, Rebetez gleefully exclaimed that he had come over to the "dark side," and became a brewer. The beer itself had a wine-like, spicy taste with a marmalade-like bouquet, creamy and caramelized with a strong, bitter aftertaste with notes of the wine. For more info go to: www.brasseriebfm.ch/

Next up, my fellow taster and extra mouth, Mr. Will Nicholls, decided to sample the affectionately named Arrogant Bastard Ale, a bitter ale, hoppy, strong tasting, malt at 7.2%. The earthy craft beer went down easily though Nicholls said that the drink had a bit of a nasty aftertaste. www.arrogantbastard.com/

While Will sampled the "Bastard," I careened over to the flavoured malt beverage department, which featured brewed products but do not taste like beer and are generally fruity, cooler type of drinks. These drinks are designed to be sold in depanneurs and grocery stores. The Mojo line of drinks are new out this season and come in three different flavours; tropical fruits, green apple and strawberry kiwi. Described as "an alternative alcoholic beverage," Mojo is packed with sugar and guarana and can leave you with quite the head-spinning feeling, though taste - wise, there is a distinct chemical flavour that was somewhat overpowering, similar to flavoured dental fluoride. www.drinkmojo.ca

We were intrigued by the following product because its packaging was so similar to the celebrated champagne, Veuve Cliquot. But Trois Dammes St-Croix by La Recolette Brasserie was nothing like its champagne friend and was instead surprisingly good amber ale. We both agreed that its strong, hoppy taste and effervescent quality was indeed delightful and would be a product we would consider again, should we happen upon it.

Though the US does not exactly have a spectacular reputation for its beers, we decided to give the star-spangled-banner clad Stoudt's American Pale Ale a shot. Mr. Nicholls thought that it was a regular blond with a hoppy taste, similar to a Sam Adams, possibly in the same genre, like a typical craft blond.

For contrast purposes, he also sampled an actual Sam Adams Boston Ale, which he cited as being a nice beer that is quite satisfying and somewhere in between the extreme sort of brewing and a regular domestic.

Going a little more exotic, I then opted for the Belgian blackberry beer Bon-Secours Myrtille, which was a delightful surprise. The Bon-Secours is a typical flavoured Belgian beer with pink foam and a sweet light aroma of berries. The flavouring was never overpowering nor was it overly saccharine, making this one of my favourite picks for the festival.

Looking for something different to invigorate our palates, we opted for the Allagash white beer of Maine. This delightful pale coloured beer was brewed with spices to create an intense aroma that paired well with the slightly flatter texture of a white beer. We really enjoyed this particular beverage as well and thought about what a delightful accompaniment it would make to a fine meal in lieu of white wine.

Next we sampled another American product, the Left Hand Brewing Company's Juju Ginger, a light and refreshing ginger beer with a soft white head and lots of bubbles. Having sampled various ginger beers in the past, I must say that this one really wasn't bad, just the right amount of sweetness, effervescent, alive and intense! Good show! www.lefthandbrewing.com/

Beer was not the only thing up for sampling as there were also various wines, honey meads and iced ciders up for tasting at this event. Feeling the need to be thorough we sampled Nuit D'Amour's honey mead wine, made with black currant berries. This sweet chilled after dinner drink was our favourite of the few that we sampled, with its syrupy texture and bright pink colour.

mmm.....

Wanna-an-Iguanna? Now say it three times fast!

This would be an ideal after dinner digestive, perhaps best served on a date. We also sampled Pommes sur Neiges ice cider, a local product but its intense sweetness turned us both off.

The brewers of Pilsner Urquell of the Czech Republic gave their own demonstration on just how easy it is to pair high-hopped bitter beers like Urquell with sharp cheeses, raw salmon creations and acidic fruits like tomatoes. We sampled various appetizers of that very nature with the beer and it was actually a quite majestic experience. The bitters paired well with the creamy textures and subtle fishy notes in the raw salmon creating a wonderful flavour sensation.

Speaking of good pairings, prior to our reconnaissance mission at the actual festival, we also had the opportunity to speak with Lucy Saunders, chef and author of the new book, *Grilling With Beer: Bastes, BBQ Sauces, Mops, Marinades & More, Made with Craft Beer*. Saunders was at the festival to demonstrate examples from her book and did a presentation on flavour progressions in grilling, using beer as one of the key ingredients. There are certain advantages to marinating meats in beer in that they have unique aromas. But another advantage "is that it's a lot less acidic than wine and so you don't run into the same risk in terms of over marinating, where the proteins start to break down and turn (the meat) mushy and so you can be a little more cavalier with your marinade," said Saunders.

Saunders was even kind enough to share one of the recipes from her new book with us as a delightful example of how to cook with beer and suggested a pork loin as an ideal meat for this recipe but said that it's just as delicious with steak:

Uncle Bison's spice marinade

1 tsp. fennel seed
1 tsp. black mustard seed
1/4 tsp. of celery seed
1 tsp. of red pepper flakes or to taste
3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
1/2 tsp. of kosher salt
1/2 tsp of ground chipotle peppers
1 tbsp.of brown sugar
1/4 cup canola oil
12 oz of a black wheat ale

Toast the seeds first and then add all of the remaining ingredients to a blender and puree. Marinate meat for a minimum of two hours, up to one day, depending on the desired intensity of the flavouring. Grill as desired and enjoy!

It's American

It says it all

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TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION VISIT TO EEYOU ISTCHEE

by Rodney W. Hester
Business Development Coordinator
CREECO Inc.

For the past three years, CREECO Inc., and more specifically, Cree Construction and Development Corporation have been in discussions and in the beginnings of developing working relations with the Tataskweyak Cree Nation. Recent developments have increased travel to Manitoba to meet not only with the TCN but also members of other Cree Nations. As a show of commitment to continue this development, the Chief of TCN, Emile Garson expressed willingness to travel with a delegation from his community to visit with the Crees of Eeyou Istchee in our own territory. Therefore, CREECO Inc. coordinated a four-day visit for 17 members of their community to the communities of Mistissini and Ouje-Bougoumou.

Day 1, *Monday, June 4, Cree Nation of Mistissini*

The members of the Tataskweyak Cree Nation arrived at the Chibougoumou airport via Air Creebec at 9:20 am. The Chairman / President of BOC / Creeco and President of CCDC were present to greet our guests to the territory.

We arrived in Mistissini at 11 am and the group checks into the lodge while others check into the assigned house. Mrs. Maggie Mianscum welcomes us and provides our guests with welcoming gifts.

At 12 noon we made our way to Adels Restaurant for lunch.

At 2 pm we visited the Cree School Board office for a tour to be given by Chairman, Gordon Blackned and Vice-Chairman, Abraham Jolly.

At 3 pm we visited to the Band Office for a tour given by Chief Longchap, Vice-Chief Wooton and Director General Thomas Neeposh.

At 3 pm we visited the CCDC office and have a short break with food and refreshments.

At 4 pm we went to the CHRD office and the GGC office. Chief Garson meets with Deputy Grand Chief Iserhoff, Youth Grand Chief Matoush and Donnie Nicholls.

We gather for a traditional feast prepared by the Native Women's Group at the shaptauwaan at 6:30 pm.

A few of the members of the Grand Council and Niskamoon delegation arrive and begin introducing themselves to the Tataskweyak Cree.

DAY 2, *Tuesday, June 5, Cree Nation of Mistissini*

Beginning our day at 8:15 am, Arnold Cheechoo of the JBCCS conducted a radio interview with Chief Garson, Junior Chief Vincent Keeper and one of the Elders accompanying the group, Albert Keeper. Jack Blacksmith and William MacLeod are also interviewed and explain how this relationship came about, and go over the purpose of the visit.

Tataskweyak tour, Eeyou Istchee

At 8:30 am we gathered for breakfast in the Mistissini Lodge Restaurant. Everyone finishes breakfast at 10 am.

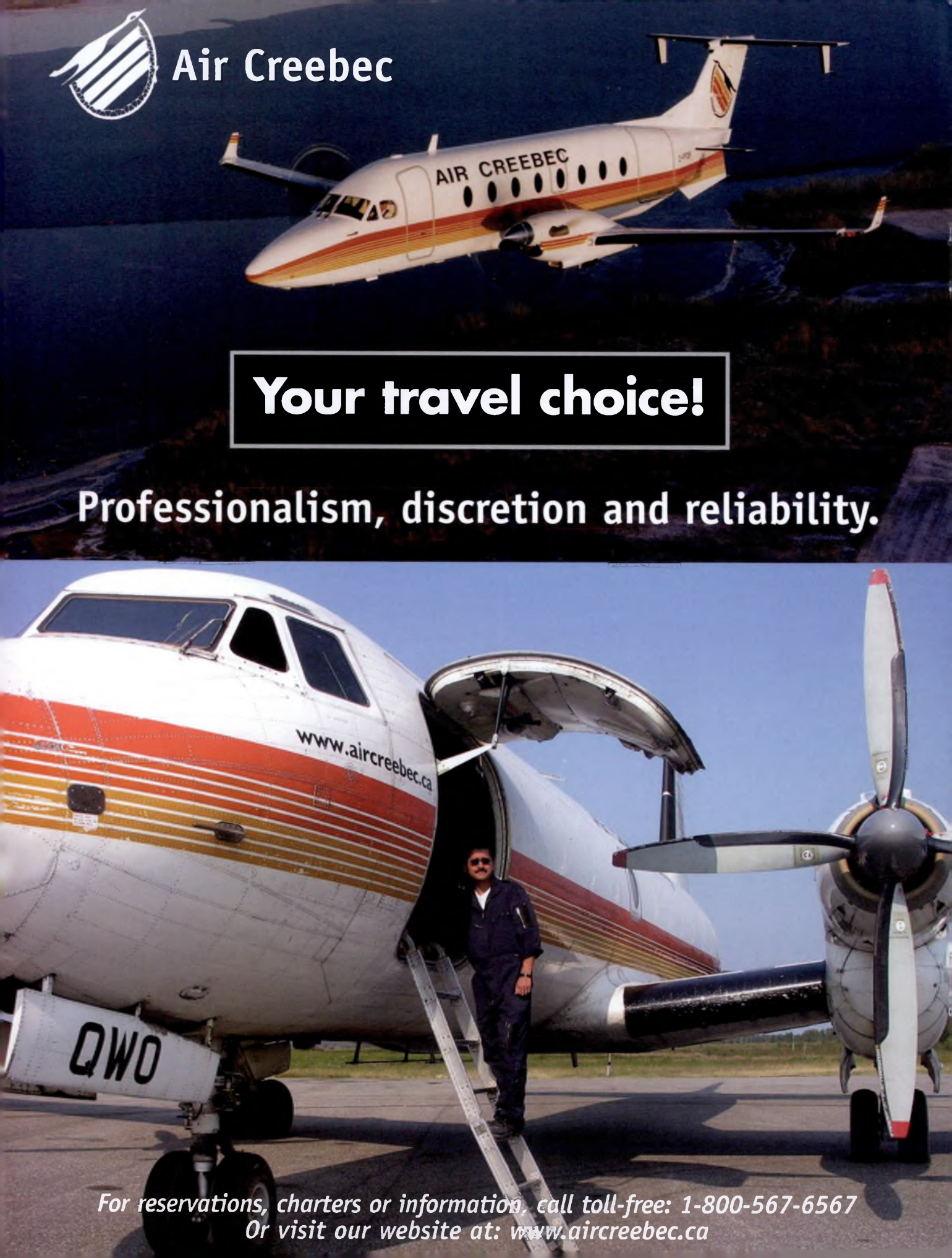
At 9:30 am some of the guests went for a visit to the Cree Trappers Association (CTA) office. The tour is given by Thomas Coon, Vice-President of the CTA.

At 10 am our guests are given a tour of the tourism office and Mistissini Lodge by Andrew Coon, Tourism Coordinator and Titus Shecapio, Tourism Officer.

At 11 am we made our way to the Childcare Centre for a tour to be given by Mrs. Ann-Marie Awashish.

We returned to the Lodge for lunch at 11:30 am. Our group visits with the GCC and Niskamoon delegations.

At 12 pm we lunched with the Grand Council of the Crees and Niskamoon Corporation. The Mistissini Lodge and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Restaurant staff did a fine job accommodating such a large group on such a short notice.

At 1:30 pm everyone made their way to the Cree Nation of Mistissini Headquarters for the signing of the Declaration of Kinship and Cooperation between the Tataskweyak Cree Nation and the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec. The conference room chamber is filled to capacity with Cree Chiefs, Niskamoon representatives, delegates from Mistissini and other Cree communities. Prior to the signing of the agreement, words from Grand Chief Mukash, Chief Garson, Jack Blacksmith and Chief Longchap are shared with those present. The agreement is signed in triplicate – originals are given to Chief Longchap, Grand Chief Mukash and Chief Garson.

Chief Garson expresses his sincere appreciation for the kindness shown to his people from the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and hopes that this agreement could be the beginnings of each Nation sharing its experiences and knowledge with each other. One example given was to create a Nation-to-Nation youth exchange program where each Nation could have youth from each community live and work in the other community for three weeks to a month, possibly in the field of radio broadcasting or other fields.

At 2 pm we made our way over to the Community Centre / Sports Complex – Andrew Coon and Titus Shecapio guide us through the facility. Although construction is not complete, the facility is impressive. The grand opening is scheduled for August / September 2007.

At 3 pm we went to the Elders Center. Raymond Nakogee was at the entrance to greet us and to provide an explanation of the services the centre provides during our tour. The atmosphere is relaxing – we are offered tea and bannock, so we decide to take a few moments and kick back and enjoy the hospitality. Don MacLeod, Economic Development Officer for Mistissini, joins the group and led us onto visits with a few local businesses once we finished our visit of the Elder's Center. At 3:30 pm we visited and met with the owner(s) of S&S Stationary, R&P Transport / Laundry Mat / Car Wash and Toyota Outlet.

A visit with the Elders had been arranged for 4:15 pm at the Elders Point. When we arrived, we were amazed at the setting and arrangement of the traditional structures. Upon entering the lodge, we found tables of crafts on display and a number of elders carving paddles, axe handles and creating tamarack goose decoys. The guests appreciated the display of snowshoes, mittens, moccasins and the like. We asked if the items were for sale, but unfortunately for us they were not. Jack said a few words in closing off our visit with the Elders at their point.

Ouje-Bougoumou

We arrived at the Ouje-Bougoumou Lodge at 7:45 pm and our second day together came to a close. By this time, with our hectic schedule, everyone was quite tired and ready for bed.

Day 3, *Wednesday, June 6, Ouje-Bougoumou*

Our third day began at 8:30 am, when we met for breakfast in the lodge restaurant. Everyone felt like a chief that day, so we all ordered the "Chiefs" breakfast of champions. The youth seemed to have a difficult time keeping up with the pace of the adults and Elders. Irvin was always taking notes in his notebook

and interviewing people here and there so the rest of the youth had to wait for him more than a few times. It was all good.

At 10 am, we began our tour of the community, which was led by Gaston Cooper, Tourism Coordinator, and Steve Mianscum, Tourism Officer. We drove around the community in caravan for 15 minutes until we all gathered at Eeyou Companee.

At 10:30 am Gaston Cooper and Deputy Chief Kenny Mianscum provided an overview of Ouje-Bougoumou's history as well as a thorough explanation of the services and structures within the community. Special mention was given to the United Nations Award granted to Ouje-Bougoumou in 1995.

From Eeyou Companee, we moved down the hall to the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association headquarters at 11 am. Pamela MacLeod provided a brief history of COTA and explained its growth and services over the recent years. Special mention was made to Robin McGinely who was unable to be present due to prior commitments.

Following MacLeod's presentation, Manon Richmond began her overview of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association at 11:20 am. The group had a few questions for both Pamela and Manon following their respective presentations.

We arrived at the Board of Compensation / CREECO office at 11:30 am. Chairman and President Jack R. Blacksmith provided the group with an overview and history of the creation of the BOC / CREECO as a result of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement. Jack introduced all staff and briefly explained each of their roles and responsibilities as well their duration of employment with the organization.

At 11:45 am, Gaston mentioned he had a special surprise for everyone, so we followed his lead as we made our way down to the cultural camp. Upon our arrival, we were pleased to find out that we could watch a few beavers in the process of being cooked for yet another feast that evening.

At 2 pm we followed Gaston's lead and made our way to the Band Office.

The group entered the main conference room and were greeted by the Cree Nation Youth Council. Youth Grand Chief, John S. Matoush gave us a warm reception and an overview of the history of the CNYC and explanation of its roles and mandates.

CREE NATION OF
WEMINDJI

Wemindji wins a Phoenix Prize!

On May 31st, 2007 the Quebec Government honored 14 recipients for Phoenix Prizes in 2007. These prizes recognize the highest environmental achievements in Quebec for the year. The Cree Nation of Wemindji received one of these Phoenix prizes for their recycling program in the community.

Congratulations to the community members of Wemindji, and our sincere thanks to local Tallyman, Mr. Raymond Atsynia, for all of his support, and first and foremost to our environmental health department, the land and environment department, for all their hard work and dedication to our community's environment.

Chief and Council
And The Management Team

Now ISO 9001:2000 certified!

The Cree Nation of Wemindji is proud to announce that we are now certified in meeting the requirements of ISO 9001:2000 in the provision of public services to the Cree Nation of Wemindji community. We wish to thank all key personnel and departments for their hard work and dedication as well as their continued commitment to quality and service. All in all this means that we as an operating band administration are following a management system that will provide quality assurance to our services within the Cree Nation of Wemindji.

At 2:30 pm the adults continued their tour of the band office while the youth remained in the meeting and joined in the discussions.

When 3:45 pm rolled around, the youth made their way to the Sports Complex. As we were entering, the adults and elders were exiting the building. Perfect coordination! What a team!

At 4 pm we drove out to the motocross / snowmobile course.

At 4:30 pm we drove out to the scenic lookout point down by that bank for a short break and to take a few pictures.

When 5 pm rolled around, we made our way to the cultural village for a traditional feast complete with moose, bear and walleye – prepared by Anna Bosum and her team.

After the feast, people just hung out and mingled with each other. The atmosphere was relaxed and casual.

At 6:30 pm, Anna began her explanation of traditional, arts and crafts. It was entertaining, educational and comedic at times. Everyone enjoyed her style and enthusiasm – a true model of Cree tourism. Other Elders in attendance provided support to Anna, who was accompanied by her husband David and Deputy Chief Mianscum.

The day ended at 8 pm, everyone either hung around and visited at the traditional village or decided to go to their rooms to get some rest.

Day 4, *Thursday, June 7, Ouje-bougoumou*

Our fourth day together began at 8:30 am. We took our time and had an extended breakfast.

As Chief Sam Bosum had just arrived into town from Mistissini, a visit with him was first on our agenda. This took place at 10:30 am

Just as we were about to enter the Chief's office, we had a pleasant surprise - we happened to meet up with Matthew Coon Come. Chief Garson remembered that Coon Come was Grand Chief of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Our visit with Chief Bosum came to a close at around 11 am. The visit had a special sincere feeling to it.

At 11 am we headed back to the CREECO office as the Vice-President, Matthew Happyjack, wanted to present a couple more gifts – one to Chief Garson (Creeco Inc. jacket) and the second to Junior Chief Keeper (Ottawa Senators Jersey).

At 11:30 am, Steve Mianscum led us on a wild back road to visit to the Bosum camp site (local bush camp). This was a fun experience.

By 1 pm, we arrived at the Chibougoumou Native Friendship Centre for a barbecue luncheon complete with hotdogs, corn, chips, soda and more hotdogs.

After another good eatin', we let the group loose in downtown Chibougoumou. Our guests shopped, chilled out, ate some cream pie and mingled with the locals.

When 3:30 pm rolled around, we began tracking each other down so we could make it on time to the airport.

After a bit of confusion, stress and anxiety, we ensured that all our guests had their return tickets. We repacked, passed through security, obtained all tickets and breathed a sigh of relief – it was all good.

At 4:45 pm we said our farewells and well wishes to each other.

This visit was a fun, enjoyable, educational and memorable experience. It would not have been possible or as successful without the help and support of the following key people who worked to make it happen:

After a bit of confusion, stress and anxiety, we ensured that all our guests had their return tickets. We repacked, passed through security, obtained all tickets and breathed a sigh of relief – it was all good.

Honourable mention goes out to:
Maggie Mianscum
Edna Shecapio
Chief John Longchap
Deputy Chief Kathleen Wooton
Andrew Coon
Titus Shecapio
Mistissini Women's Group
Mistissini Lodge and Restaurant
Chief Sam Bosum
Deputy Chief Kenny Mianscum
Gaston Cooper
Steve Mianscum
David and Anna Bosum
Donnie Nicholls - GCC
Dr. Billy Diamond and
the Niskamoon Corporation

Tataskweyak Cree Nation - Delegates
1. Emile Garson, Chief
2. Elijah Dick, Councillor
3. Norman Beardy, Councillor
4. Nathan Neckoway, Councillor
5. Ruba Thibeault, Councillor
6. Leah Garson, Executive Director
7. Robert Flett, Financial Administrator
8. Veronica Flett, Youth Chaperone
9. Vincent Keeper, Youth
10. Miranda Spence, Youth
11. Megan Keeper, Youth
12. Irvin Keeper, Youth
13. Daniel Desmit, Youth
14. William Beardy, Elder
15. Albert Keeper, Elder
16. Norman Spence, Elder
17. Chris Sinclair, Business Consultant

THE VIEW FROM MANITOBA

The Pas resident Chris Sinclair works for the Tataskweyak Cree. Sinclair says he started looking at an economic development strategy for the band about two years ago. Sinclair recommended that instead of starting from scratch, they decided to "do something with a First Nations company that has gone through the process. We don't want to reinvent the wheel."

The band agreed and they started looking around. "Cree Construction's people with the president Willie MacLeod came and gave a presentation on the scope of their activities. They were specific to northern development and we got interested," said Sinclair. From there they went on to do the first project on the Ghost Point cemetery. It was done on time, under budget and almost all the employees were Cree which the band loved.

It was decided then to create the United Cree Construction Company. Sinclair said there is the possibility of more Cree partners. "There are a lot of other people and bands looking on from the sidelines to see what is happening," said Sinclair.

Sinclair said the visit opened a lot of possibilities. "We learnt some new ways of looking at things when we visited in Mistissini and Ouje-Bougoumou," he said. "We enjoyed our visit and brought back more than just business ideas. We got ideas on governance and infrastructure. We want to thank our guides, Jack Blacksmith, Willie MacLeod, Rodney Hester and Edna Shecapio."

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The Sabtuan regional vocational training centre is proud to announce that the following vocational courses will be offered at the centre in Waswanipi on the dates indicated.

Program Name	To Start	Duration
Computing Support	**August 2007**	**1800 hrs**
Northern Bldg Maintenance	**August 2007**	**1320 hrs**
Other Programs (Future)	**To Start**	**Duration**
Assistance to Patients	**October 2007**	**630 hrs**
Carpentry	**January 2008**	**1320 hrs**
Professional Cooking	**January 2008**	**1350 hrs**
Accounting	**January 2008**	**1350 hrs**

Please see the adult education consultant responsible for your community for application forms and be sure to include all the required documents.

For more information, please call 1-866-921-4040 and ask for Nancy Mianscum, or Luc Collette.

*Registration for the two programs "**Computing Support**" and "**Northern Building Maintenance**" should be received by June 22, 2007*

DECLARATION OF KINSHIP AND COOPERATION AMONG THE EEYOU/EENOU of EEYOU ISTCHEE AND THE TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION OF MANITOBA

We, the Cree people knowing that the Creator placed us here on Mother Earth as sovereign nations and seeking to live in peace, freedom and prosperity with all humanity in accordance with our own traditional laws are united in our sacred relationship with the land, air, water and resources of our traditional territories. We are united by common origin and history, aspiration and experience, and we are brothers and sisters, leaders and warriors of our nations.

We the Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee and the Tataskweyak Cree Nation of Manitoba meeting on Eeyou Istchee make the following declaration:

Since time immemorial, the lands that we live on known as Eeyou Istchee and Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Manitoba have been and continue to be the traditional sacred home of our nations

As Cree Nations with our own distinct identities, culture, language and traditions, we have also been guided by many common purposes and beliefs, which have been shaped by many common experiences;

We have all retained the inherent right to self-determination. In shaping our own destinies, we will remain faithful to the time honoured traditions of our ancestors and we will work to secure the greatest possible freedom, dignity and prosperity for our people;

As Cree Nations, we live in harmony with our environment and cherish and protect our traditional homelands;

We share a belief that individuals and peoples must address each other in a spirit of respect and understanding;

We have all experienced outside encroachment upon our traditional homelands and we have created new relationships to coexist with other peoples and cultures in peace;

While other nations and peoples have drawn boundaries between our lands, the kinship and connection among our people will never be severed by paper, politics or imagination;

We hereby resolve to reaffirm and to strengthen those bonds of mutual respect, cooperation and affection we have known. As friends and allies, we as United Cree Nations go forward with greater strength and wisdom in our interactions with other governments in our regions and in our world.

In the traditional lands of the Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee in the spring of 2007, the Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee and the Tataskweyak Cree Nation declare this statement of unity, understanding and kinship. We affirm our commitments to honour our people by representing them in a constitutional and democratic manner. We encourage our organizations to work cooperatively to inform, assist, and support each other in the areas of common concern, including:

Achieving the recognition, protection, and implementation of the existing legal and political rights of our nations, including those founded in our own national laws, the laws of Canada and in the laws of the wider international community;

Promoting the practice and preservation of our spiritual and cultural expressions;

Supporting the education of our peoples in our ways of life as well as in other forms of knowledge of humankind;

Raising our children in the traditions of our peoples and protecting their integral connections with their families, communities and nations;

Advancing the economic and social well being of the members of our nations while preserving our traditions of sharing and social justice;

Our political and administrative organizations are encouraged to work beyond the matters enumerated in this declaration. These organizations are encouraged to focus their collective efforts towards the advancement of the principles and spirit upon which this declaration is made. These organizations can facilitate specific bilateral agreements in accordance with their respective nation's constitutions and practices. These organizations can further seek to strengthen relationships among our peoples by facilitating exchanges of representatives.

We resolve at this first meeting of the renewal of our relations to convene again and as many times as it takes to facilitate the strengthening of our relations, and to comply with the spirit of understanding and friendship among our people. We as nations and peoples shall grow stronger as we accomplish the recognition and implementation of our rights and take our place among the community of all nations.

Let it be resolved that the Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee and the Tataskweyak Cree Nation having met in assembly in the Cree Nation of Mistissini, Eeyou Istchee affirm the foregoing, in honour of our peoples and for the sake of future generations, as a declaration of Cree understanding amongst our nations and organizations.

Certification:

On behalf of the Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee and the Tataskweyak Cree Nation, in unity, solidarity, mutual respect and friendship, we the undersigned attest that this declaration represents the collective sentiment of those representatives who convened in the Cree Nation of Mistissini, Eeyou Istchee, Canada on Tuesday, June 5, 2007.

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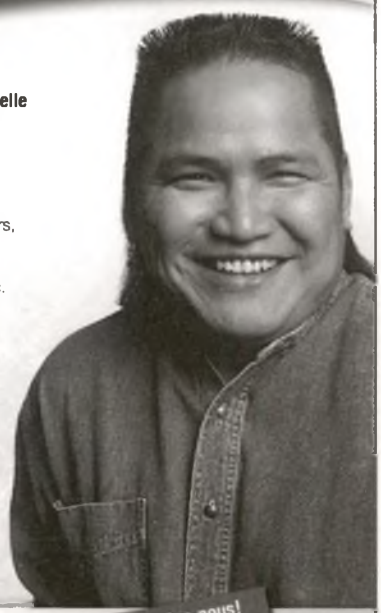

Le centre de formation professionnelle de la Jamésie vous propose les programmes suivants :

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The vocational training centre of Jamesie offers the following programs:

industrial mechanics,
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Healthy Living

Nourish the body and stimulate the senses with Healthy Living recipes!

Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each month *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.

Jambalaya

Ingredients

1 Tbsp	canola or corn oil	15 ml
2 ea	medium onions, chopped	220 ml
1 ea	green bell pepper, cored and peeled	119 ml
2 ea	celery, chopped	80 ml
2 ea	garlic cloves, minced	6 ml
16 oz	can diced tomatoes in purée, undrained	500 ml
2 cups	chicken broth, low-fat, low-sodium	500 ml
2 Tbsp	tomato paste	30 ml
1 tsp	salt	5 ml
1 1/2 tsp	thyme	7 ml
1/4 tsp	black pepper, fresh ground	1 ml
1/4 tsp	cayenne pepper	1 ml
1 ea	bay leaf	0 ml
8 drops	hot pepper sauce	1 ml
1 1/2 cups	long-grain rice, uncooked	375 ml
1 cup	cooked ham, diced	250 ml
1 cup	chicken breasts, skinless, boneless and cooked	250 ml
6 oz	shrimp, peeled and de-veined	180 ml

Directions

1. Heat the oil in a large heavy pot. Add the onions, green pepper, celery, and garlic. Sauté over medium heat until softened.
2. Add the tomatoes and liquid, chicken broth, tomato paste, and seasonings. Simmer uncovered for 10 minutes.
3. Add the rice; cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Add the ham and chicken. Continue cooking, covered, for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the rice absorbs the liquid. Stir to mix well. Add the shrimp during the last 3 minutes of cooking. Remove the bay leaf before serving.

Nutritional Analysis per serving (1/8 recipe):

Calories:	263	Carbohydrate:	37 g
Fat:	4 g	Dietary Fibre:	2 g
Cholesterol:	56 mg	Sugars:	5 g
Sodium:	658 mg	Protein:	18 g

Northern

Adult high school grads

By Amy German

The community of Mistissini is proud to announce a fresh crop of graduates of a different variety: adults who are now ready to go off to CEGEP.

It's called the Ashuugan program, and its first wave of adult students in this three-year pilot project will soon enter first year CEGEP, where they take credit courses and upgrading courses in the community.

Designed as a stepping stone between high school graduation and post secondary studies, the Ashuugan program is geared towards the specific needs of those who have just graduated from secondary five or who have been away from school for some time and wish to go on to CEGEP.

According to student councillor Mary Forte, "Once the students finish high school, secondary five, if they want to peruse their studies they have to go to bigger centres. And it's not always easy for them to leave the communities, to leave the families. Some have a lot of personal issues so sometimes they will leave and they are not quite ready."

"At the beginning of the year we had about 32 or 34 applicants. Out of these applicants, 14 were accepted because they had pre-requisites for the program and of these 14, nine finished the program and eight graduated," Forte explained.

While attending the Ashuugan program, which is housed in classrooms and office space at the Voyageur Memorial High School, students take general CEGEP preparatory courses such as English, French as a second language, remedial math, humanities, First Nations culture, and physical education.

This year's graduates include Diane Edwards, Daryl Niquatin, Dolly Neeposh, Julianna Neeposh, Marilyn Petawabano, Iris Voyageur and Leonda Voyager. All of the students had been out of school for some time and were looking for a fresh start in academics.

The Ashuugan program is a sponsorship between the Cégep de Saint-Félicien, Centre régional de Chibougamau, the Cree School Board and Voyageur Memorial High School.

Forte is confident that approval from the Cree School Board, the management board and the school commissioners will get the program back up and running for the fall.

According to Forte, sponsorship is also available from CHRD, though the most recent graduating class did not find out that they were getting funding for the program until long after their first semester began.

"Actually the students started the program knowing that they may not be funded so they were not coming here because they were getting paid, they were coming here because they were motivated," she said.

At the moment the Ashuugan program is the only one of its kind and is accepting students from other communities. "If the other communities expressed a desire to have such a program it would be up to the Cree School Board to decide whether they want to offer this program in other communities."

To find out more about the Ashuugan program, contact Mary Forte at 418 923-2497.

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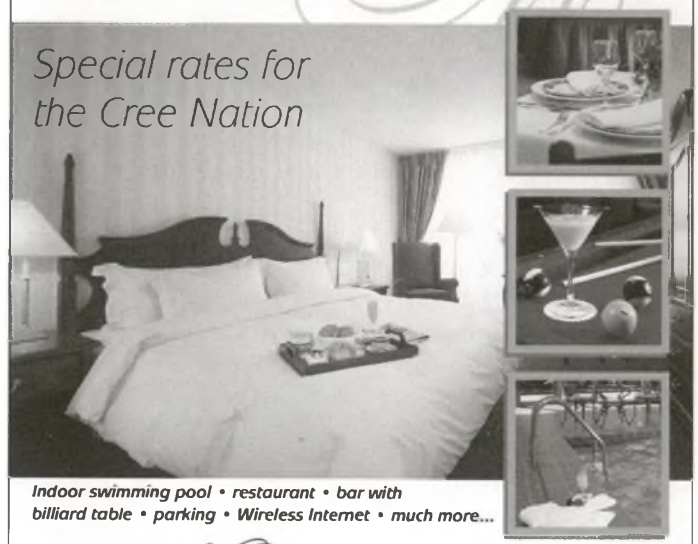

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Meegwetch to my friend Emily

by Xavier Kataquapit

My friend Emily McGrath was like a bright beautiful flower. For someone in her 80s, she had a lot of energy.

Emily woke early every morning out of a habit she kept after retiring from the Abitibi paper mill in Iroquois Falls. Her days were filled with keeping the kitchen clean, dusting and putting clutter back in its rightful place. On warm days when the sun was not too hot, she loved putting her hands in the soil to tend to her garden of perennial flowers she kept alive with thoughtful attention year after year.

When she grew tired of her daily chores, Emily looked forward to sitting quietly inside her lifelong home to peruse the newspaper or she would sit amongst her flowers in the warm sun to read a new book. She lived in the same house for 75 years in Iroquois Falls. She was a rock for her family and friends.

When I first met Emily in 1997 she was very vibrant but in recent years she slipped in her ability to do the things she always enjoyed. In the past few years, her energy wore down as she took on fewer and fewer tasks. Still, Emily belonged to many volunteer groups in town as she was always trying to make someone's life a little better.

My friend Mike, her son, always admired Emily for her openness and understanding. He was always very proud of the fact that she was a really intelligent woman with a broad range of knowledge.

This came out of her love of reading. As a young girl, she was given a great education in English grammar. When I started writing this weekly column, she was ready to proofread every word I wrote. No matter how many people read my copy, Emily was bound to find a misspelled word, a grammatical error or missing punctuation. She was a patient teacher, a knowledgeable tutor and a joy to work with.

Emily helped a lot of young girls along the way with her commitment to the Girl Guides. She volunteered for the Girl Guides of Canada for over 50 years and her dedication was recognized when she was awarded the Governor General's Award in 1991 at Queen's Park. There is a great picture of her accepting her award from the then Governor General, Lincoln Alexander. This was a very appropriate situation for Emily as she never saw people in colour. She seemed only capable of seeing the good in people and she treated everyone equally. For someone who came out of a time full of prejudice, Emily was open and loving.

Emily saw me for what I could do or what I was capable of. As I spent more time with her, I considered her more as an Elder that helped me to lead a more meaningful existence.

I learned a lot from Emily. She taught me that it was important to make good use of each day and in an organized way. I learned that it was a good idea to set boundaries so that one can be nice to people but still have time for one's own life.

I learned that it is not right to judge others or to claim any moral high ground over anyone. I learned that it is love that really makes the world go around and not money. I learned that if you keep yourself strong and healthy than you can be capable of helping others.

I spent a lot of time with my friend Mike to help his mom Emily while she was in hospitals for the past several months. It was painful to see her suffer and go through so much pain and discomfort because of illness. One of her greatest discomforts was due to the fact that she was not able to be in her lifelong home in all that time.

It was also painful when she passed away at the end of May. It was like a star had gone out in the night sky. It was like one less bird sang outside my bedroom window. It was like part of me had gone away. Still, I know that her teachings will be with me for the rest of my life.

Meegwetch to my friend Emily.

Airfare
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PROGRAM
The Airfare Reduction Program allows residents of certain outlying and isolated regions of Québec to travel at reduced cost, for personal reasons and when accompanying a patient who requires healthcare services, through a partial refund of their airfare.
Refund forms are available at the airports, at the offices of the Cree Councils of Waswanipi, Oujé-Bougoumou and Mistissini, at the city halls of Chapais, Chibougamau, Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Matagami, and at the office of the locality of Radisson and at the Conférence régionale des élus de la Baie-James.
For any request for information, the James Bay population must contact the Conférence régionale des élus de la Baie-James at 1 800 516-4111, extension 232.
The form and additional information on the Airfare Reduction Program are also available at the following address :
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JOB OPPORTUNITY

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Closing Date:	Friday, June 29th, 2007 at 12:00pm.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:

Primarily under the direction of President/Chief Executive Officer, the Manager of Auberge Capissisit Lodge will plan, organize, direct and control the hotel and restaurant operations of the Lodge.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

1. The manager will supervise the upkeep of all required financial records in cooperation with the accounting department and will prepare regular management reports on all aspects of the operation.
2. The manager will direct and supervise staff including the Chef, kitchen personnel, dining room employees and hotel employees and make appropriate recommendations where necessary.
3. Will maintain and direct an effective cost control and monitoring program keep track of all purchasing and inventory and will be charged with the overall effective direction of the organization.
4. Will propose and implement a business development plan designed to promote the services of the Lodge and to substantially improve its financial operations.
5. Will act as the representative of the Lodge and effective promote its business in regional, national and international forums, in cooperation with the Tourism Department and other bodies seeking to provide business opportunities in the community.
6. Will plan, organize, direct and control the operations of the hotel/ restaurant operations of the Lodge.
7. Will develop and implement policies and procedures for the operation of the Lodge.
8. Determine the type of service to be offered and submit proposals for improvements.
9. Ensure that all policies and procedures relating to the preparation of financial data and reports are adhered to.
10. Participate in the formation of a medium term business development plan with other interested parties in the community.
11. Recruit staff and supervise the training and development program authorized by the Board.
12. Determine staff scheduling and monitor and evaluate staff performance.
13. Monitor and report on revenue and cost structure on a regular basis, control inventory and purchasing and modify pricing policies and procedures.
14. Resolve consumer complaints and ensure that all relevant health and safety regulations are followed
15. Negotiate arrangements with clients for catering or for the use of facilities for banquets and receptions.
16. Prepare budgets and provide regular reports on revenues and expenses.
17. Participate in the development of pricing and promotional strategies.
18. Upon request, performs any other related managerial tasks.

Continued from Page 9

Philadelphia and Captain of the Quebec team. He has also taught SQ officers at the Quebec police academy.

In the past, the club sent students from Wemindji and Whapmagoostui to an international competition in Montreal, Coupe de l'amitié on September 9, 2006. The Cree students performed a demonstration during the competition where there were competitors from Belgium, Switzerland, France and Canada. The students had the chance to study with international athletes from France and Switzerland, and they also had a private training with sensei Chanh Chau Tran. There are orange belt students in Wemindji who are training for their green belt this summer.

Abitibiwinni fights for treaty rights

The First Nation community of Abitibiwinni in Northern Quebec has set up an intermittent blockade of Highway 111 to raise awareness and support for their land claim.

The Abitibiwinni are protesting their land allocation under Treaty 9, which they say is not being respected. The Abitibiwinni reserve is home to approximately 500 Algonquins and is located just outside of the municipality of Amos.

According to Abitibiwinni band council member, Bruno Kistabish, when the treaty was forged back in 1906, "it guaranteed that every family should have a square mile for a family of five people, now we have a square mile for over 130 families."

Though Treaty 9 is synonymous with Ontario's troubles, the Abitibiwinni First Nations were actually included in the treaty, giving them grounds to take up their land claims with the government. "We did not get anything since those 100 years ago, this is why we are protesting," said Kistabish.

The blockade was not intended to completely block traffic but merely to slow it down and hand out pamphlets

At the time that we spoke to Kistabish, one day prior to the event, he was expecting a turn out of at least 200-300 of the reserve's inhabitants.

In 2006, the community celebrated the centennial of Treaty 9 with the other Algonquin communities that surround Lake Abitibi by sending the treaty back to the government with a message that the treaty is not being honored. Though a representative from Indian Affairs was present at the 100-year anniversary "celebration," the community did not receive any response from the government. "Nothing at all, not even any word as to whether they had received the documents," said Kistabish.

In trying to establish their point, the community of Abitibiwinni has appealed to various local groups, says Kistabish. "We have gone to the Amos Chamber of Commerce and we did the same thing in La Sarre. We are doing what we can for the people, to let them know that the government does not move, they don't say anything and this is not right."

For the time being the community is planning on keeping their protests peaceful and has no intentions of stepping up their actions to the levels seen in Caledonia over the past year.

"So far there is not even anything put aside from us with the land, there is nothing that has been done, the 30 square miles, nothing has been put aside for us, nothing," said Kistabish.

At the same time he expressed a great deal of hope as already to date the community is feeling the support of neighboring communities. "Most of the people, the white man, they are supporting us in the Amos region."

Talleyman's body recovered

Still reeling from four young deaths in a period of eight months, the tiny village of Nemaska lost a respected talleyman to a boating accident on May 25. Andrew Moar, 61, suffered a heart attack while paddling to shore after experiencing motor trouble. Moar was traveling with his wife Winnie who tried to save him.

After a 13 day search, divers recovered the remains June 7.

He will be missed and remembered by young and old alike. The Moar family was featured in a short documentary broadcast on APTN. It showed him netting sturgeon, studying and enjoying it and talking about the river he called home.

AFN offers reward for info on murder of pregnant woman

A national appeal is being made for information concerning the killing of Kelly Morrisseau, a Gatineau woman who was seven months' pregnant at the time of her murder.

On June 7, National Chief Phil Fontaine, in a joint media conference with Crime Stoppers, the Gatineau Police Department, and members of the family of Kelly Morrisseau, made a public plea that anyone with information regarding the stabbing death of Ms. Morrisseau contact police or Crime Stoppers.

"The lack of a resolution to this crime is not just a women's issue. This is everyone's issue. Everyone has mothers and daughters, nieces and aunts. And Kelly Morrisseau was all of these," National Chief Phil Fontaine told the gathering in Ottawa.

Kelly Lindsey Morrisseau died after being attacked with a sharp object. She lost a lot of blood at the scene of the gambling entrance parking lot at Gatineau Park. At the time of her death she was 27 years old and the mother of three children aged 12, 4 and 3 years.

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to $2,000 for tips resulting in an arrest and the Assembly of First Nations is matching that $2,000, for a total of $4,000, the National Chief said.

He also called on corporations, small businesses and other organizations to donate to the fund.

Claude Parent, of Crime Stoppers, said to date the civil organization has received very few tips regarding the case, but that they can now be made anonymously online. Captain Roger Cloutier, of the Gatineau Police Department said police are taking the case very seriously and that any information regarding Ms. Morrisseau's murder - whether it be first-hand or not – is welcome.

Crime Stoppers can be reached at 1-800-222-TIPS (or 8477)

For Gatineau Police call Detective Sergeant Mario Lepage at 819-243-2346 ext. 6072

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS – 101

Happy belated 1st Birthday to Yanic Georgekish on June 2nd. Also Happy 1st Birthday to the Canadian Girls, Alexa Atsynia and Emmy Katabat on July 1st. Hope you girls have a blast on your special day. Congrats to Alexa on her walking out ceremony on May 18th (already). With lots of hugs and kisses from your educators at Shiwhymigoo Childcare (Wem.) MG, MN, & SA.

A very special 'Happy Birthday' going out to my Aunitie, Alice Petawabano-Macleod, on the 16th of June, who's way out in Mistissini. Miss you, my Auntie!! I really enjoy it whenever you & Luke come to Val-d'Or. You're HOW old, now? I know but I won't blab it out to the Cree Nation, OK? Enjoy your day to the fullest and many, many more to come!! Love Always, From your niece, Flora, & Danny.

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to one of the best body checkers in Bantam hockey, namely Cody Pepabano who's birthday is on June 10. Keep up your hockey and stay away from drugs and alcohol. You never know, we might see you in the NHL one of these days. Hope your day is full of love and happiness from family and friends, but no girlfriend (just kidding!). With lots of hugs and kisses from grandma and grandpa Pepabano.

Today, June 8, 2007 is my baby girl's birthday. Her name is Lisa Pepabano-Scipio. She is now in her 30s, but she is still my baby and will always be. Wishing her lots of love on her day. Take care of your 2 boys and your big boy. Love them mishtea. "Lisa, it's your birthday, Happy Birthday Lisa" Love your Mom & Dad.

I would like to wish my 2 special Aunties a Happy Birthday..On June 23, 2007. Carrie Ann and Charity, I love you both SOO much. Thanks for taking care of me sometimes..even though you make me cry at times. I know I'm a bossy kid but I know you still love me! Once again, HAPPY BIRTHDAY and many more to come..Love always your adorable nephew, Brayden Boysh! xOx

Wishing a Happy Birthday to our adopted daughter, Natacha Moar Wapachee, on June 30, 2007 from Nemaska and many more to come. Hopefully she will bake her own cake and invite her family Moar Ha Ha !!!! From Linda, William, Nathan and Naamansh.

Happy birthday to my sister, Minnie Masty on June 6, 07 and happy 4th birthday to Trinity Masty also on June 6, 07, from: Patricia, Gordon, Tristan, Noah-Remay and Viola Snowboy (Whap).

We would like to wish, Marie-Céline Charron a very happy birthday on June 9,

CLASSIFIEDS

and also a very happy birthday for Jean-Philip Charron on June 15. Both of you in Ottawa have a very Happy Birthday. Best wishes for both of you and may God bless you both. From Mom, Luc, Louise, Mélika, Maxime, Maverick, and Laury Alyson. We love you both.

Happy Birthday to my friend Cynthia Longchap on May 30th. I hope u enjoyed your day! I did not forget. How could I, cause you're my childhood friend and for that I'll forever be grateful. Once again, Happy birthday and God bless you, Annie.

Wishing our Auntie, Carrie-Lynn Blacksmith A.K.A "FiFi", a happy Birthday on the 6th of June. Just to let you know that it's great to have an Auntie like you. We love you and wish you many more birthdays. Luv Always, your Nephew, JAYDEN "BONE" BLACKSMITH & Niece, SKY MATS.

We would like to wish a happy 13th birthday to our daughter, Brianna Moore, on June 16. Hope you enjoy your b-day at the fair, lol. Anyways have a good one, and we love you. From Mom, Dad and all your siblings.

Wishing our baby girl, JoAnne Christianna Sarah Justine Salt a very Happy 1st Birthday on June 15th...My girl you were the best birthday present I ever had in my life...I thank God for fulfilling my birthday wish the previous year when I made a wish on my birthday, to have another baby....little knowing my wish would come true exactly a year later on my birthday...Happy Birthday to US...love Mom..and Daddy and Jaedon too..WE LOVE YOU LOTS xoxoxo!

To my one and only sister: Jordanna June Moses who will be celebrating her birthday on June 7, 2007. "Happy Birthday" It is too bad that you can't eat cake, eh? I guess that means more for me. Have lot's of fun: Nii, Jordan Wischee-Moses (Wask).

Double the celebration fun for my dad, Charlie Wischee on June 17th, 2007. Happy Birthday and Happy Father's Day. With hugs and kisses: Your daughter Victoria Wischee (Wask).

Happy Belated 30th Birthday to Brian .G. on June 3rd. Love your family.

PERSONAL MESSAGES – 300

Happy father's Day to my husband, Gordon Snowboy Jnr. I love you so much, from your wife Mrs. Patricia Masty. (WHAP) xoxoxoxoxoxooxo.

Happy father's day to our daddy, Gordon Snowboy jnr. We love you very much, from your children, Tristan, Noah-Remay & Viola Snowboy (Whap.)xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo.

Wishing a Happy father's day to my daddy Jeremiah! Hey daddy, I want to thank Jesus for blessing me with the greatest daddy in the world. I love it when you throw me in the air. Not much anymore cause I'm getting heavier!! I love it when you tickle me. I love it when you put me to sleep and say "Nabah!!" when I babble on and on about my day!! And I love it when you and mommy tell me stories about my birth and how I changed your lives!! I hope you enjoy your day daddy! I love you with all of my yiamsooness and little heart. Love Danielle

Your 1st Father's Day this year. Where do I start? I'm so thankful and blessed to have you as a partner and as a friend! You are the greatest. I thank you for all you do for your daughter and me! She is smart like you and beautiful like me!!! I love you Jeremiah with all my heart. Thanks for everything. All my love Ali

Happy Father's Day to Dale Sherman Salt. We wuv yah very much daddy. We thank you for being there for us, and we wuv it when you play, and laugh with us, especially when you hug and kiss us. That's what daddy's do, we wuv yah very much. Once again Happy Father's Day daddy. Love Mommy, Nehemiah, and your baby girl Richelle, (I think Richelle loves being daddy's girl) heeheehee .

Alice Madeline Loone June 21, 1949-June 22, 2005. Mom, it's been only two years since you went Home. Yet...it seems so long since you had left us. I miss you so much, but I know you are watching over us. Mom, I had asked you help and you did help me, this is why I believe you are watching over us. Dad and I often talk about the funny memories. Abraham is doing fine, as you were concerned about him when you know you were leaving. Dad is taking good care of him. I love you and miss you alot. From your best friend, your daughter Elizabeth A. Coonishish, Mistissini. My Mother and I have the same birthday (June 21). It's one in a million for a mother and daughter to share a birthday. My Mom was and is always my best present, it was special gift from the Lord above to have a wonderful Mother like her. Thank you Lord, for guiding my Mom back to heaven, where now she is no longer in pain and suffering.

Mistissini- I am looking for a reliable person to rent my 3 Bedroom house (without basement), very spacious. Fireplace, stove top, microwave/fan, dishwasher & convection oven included. Large bathroom with jacuzzi. Patio and private backyard. Available September 1, 2007. Asking price, $890.00 a month. You can contact me at creehome@hotmail.com.

Hey Ouje-Bougoumou friends of mine xD di deen? Ha ha! I'm boored so I thought I would type you guys something down to read. But guess who it is!!! AHH!*funny face* Johnny Depp<3 oouu! He he I know some of you will know who I am! =P well Ashley, Gianna, Miranada, Ben, Hayley, Mathias, Joshua, Meegun, Sharon, Amelia and a lot of other of my best friends, I love you all so much! But sum times you guys hurt me =(no just kidding i love you guys =)!!<3 woah! I'm watching Pirates of the Carabean TWO!! ahaha! luv yas<3 bye!

To Céline's friends in Chisasibi, the Nation that made her what she is today, and to her colleagues of the Youth Council when she was a member, this is what she had been up to since she left for college. Marie-Celine is a part of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach in northern Quebec. She grew up in Chisasibi, Quebec where she grabbed every opportunity to be on stage, whether it was for public speaking contests or pageants. She has attended film-making workshops with Shirley Cheechoo during her time at the James Bay Eeyou School. She then began to grow interest for dramatic arts and performing.

In her hometown, she worked as a drama animator for summer day camp programs where she would find artistic activities to share with the children. She appreciates group paintings and collective stories. Marie-Celine has now graduated from a 2 year theatre arts program at Algonquin College in Ottawa. Her training at Algonquin includes Scriptwriting, Movement/ Acting, Technical theatre, Productions, Voice, Design and field placements. She has performed in two plays from Algonquin Theatre which are "Treasure Island" and "Summer Brave". Marie-Celine loves dramatic arts, not only for the challenges but for the art that grows from them. Over the past two summer seasons, Marie-Celine has worked with Aboriginal Experiences which gave her the opportunity to be part of the "creation" of an original animated theatrical presentation called "Sky Woman Falls To The Earth" which is performed through dance and movement. Marie-Celine performed in all roles of the play for a wide variety of audiences and also helped design and create the costumes. Aboriginal Experiences has also given her the opportunity not only to explore the technical side of the presentations but also any other skills necessary for its success.

Marie-Celine has also done cultural performances at the Canadian Museum of Civilizations of various occasions and at Algonquin College. She also participated in the Winterlude festivities by translating dance interpretations for various artists on the North stage. Dance has always been her favorite form of artistic expression. She is currently practicing Jingle Dress Dancing while learning more about other women's styles like Fancy Shawl and Women's Traditional. In October of 2006 she departs for rehearsals leading to her first dance tour through western Canada as a part of the acclaimed dance troupe "Red Thunder; The Next Generation". This opportunity is a result of artistic networks created with other Aboriginal Experiences artists.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

POSITION: Head Chef

TERM: Full-Time (six month's probation)

SALARY: According to Qualifications, Experience & Budget

DUTIES: As Per Listed (but not limited to)

Requirements

The successful candidate will have:

- Secondary V, with chef's training or equivalent work experience to be considered as a definite asset;
- good cooking and meal planning skills;
- an excellent ability to work well and calmly under pressure;
- an ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- good organizational skills as well as people management and communication skills;
- The ability to speak Cree and English, with knowledge of French to be considered as an asset.

Duties

Reporting to the Manager and the Assistant Manager, the Head Chef is responsible for overseeing the operations of the kitchen and kitchen staff. Specific tasks include, but are not limited to:

- supervising and preparing work schedules for cooks and dishwashers/cook helpers, and ensuring that cooks rotate shifts on the "frontline", "daily specials", "breakfasts/brunches" and "desserts";
- arranging replacement workers in the event of absences;
- planning and pricing well-balanced menus, and reviewing same on a regular basis according to seasonal availability and costs;
- ensuring equipment is fully functional and in a good state of repair;
- ensuring the kitchen area is always kept in a clean and orderly state and that staff maintain excellent hygiene standards;
- verifying daily food checklist;
- verifying food quality on a daily basis, such as checking "best before" dates and ensuring refrigerated food is rotated correctly (i.e. using older ingredients first);
- overseeing efficient use of ingredients;
- ordering food and kitchen supplies;
- instructing, overseeing, and helping staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing, and presentation of food;
- providing assistance and feedback to cooks on "daily special" planning;
- assisting Management in the selection of new kitchen staff and in the evaluation of existing staff;
- reporting offences under the Personnel Policy to Management;
- Other tasks that may from time to time be assigned by the Manager or Assistant Manager as the case may be.

All interested candidates should submit their application and resumes no later than: **June 29th, 2007** to: **Management of Kanio-Kashee Lodge, P.O. Box 360, Waskaganish, Quebec, J0M 1R0, info@kanio-kasheelodge.ca**

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"Honouring our Youth and Geese"

July 31, August 1, 2 & 3, 2007

Moose Cree First Nation, Moose Factory, Ontario

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Activities Include:

- Evening Entertainment
- Cultural Workshops & Activities
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- Unity Run Send Off
- Traditional Village
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August 1st - 3rd, 2007

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- Youth Forum
- Youth Entertainment

For more information on the RYG, contact Jason Smallboy, Mushkegowuk Youth Department (705) 658-4222

Niska Memorial Traditional Gathering

August 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2007

For more information on the NMTG, contact Vern Cheechoo, Chairperson/Coordinator: (705) 658-2367 or by email - vcheechoo@shaw.ca

You can send donations for NMTG to: Niska Memorial Traditional Gathering, P.O. Box 358, Moose Factory, ON P0L 1W0

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